Amateur Radio Newsline(tm) Report 1647 - March 6 2009

Amateur Radio Newsline report number 1647 with a release date of Friday, March 6th, 2009 to follow in 5-4-3-2-1.

The following is a QST. A California jury condemns another of the Hawkes' murderers to death; the killer of a ham couple in Nebraska gets life with no parole; a ham convicted of molesting a child looses his license, a new rescue information service is announced by Holland's leading broadcaster and a ham radio space tourist prepares for his second trip to the ISS. Find out who on Amateur Radio Newsline(tm) report number 1647, coming your way right now.

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THE HAWKES CASE: THIRD CONSPIRATOR WILL FACE DEATH PENALTY

John Fitzgerald Kennedy will be put to death for his part in the murders at sea of Thomas and Jackie Hawks, KD7VWJ and KD7VWK. Bruce Tennant, K6PZW. Reports:

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The same jury that convicted John Fitzgerald Kennedy last week of two counts of first-degree murder with special circumstances in the killings took only 7 hours to decide that the 43 year old former gang member should be condemned to death. This, for his part in the gruesome Hawkes killings at sea in November of 2004.

Kennedy is the third defendant to stand trial for the double murders at sea, which occurred somewhere off the coast of California. 29 year old Skylar Deleon, of Long Beach, California, the plotter, recruited Kennedy at the last minute to help to subdue Thomas Hawkes aboard the boat. He was convicted last year and is awaiting a sentence of death on March 20. Jennifer Henderson, Deleon's former wife, was convicted in 2006 for her role and was has been sentenced to life without parole.

Senior Deputy District Attorney Matt Murphy, who prosecuted all three, said that the murder conspiracy would not have succeeded had it not been for Kennedy. Murphy described Kennedy a muscular street gang member with an extensive criminal background. By the time he was 40, Kennedy had accumulated 21 arrests for such charges as battery, theft, drugs and attempted murder. In March 2005, he was arrested and charged with murdering the Hawkes for financial gain.

For the Amateur Radio Newsline, I'm Bruce Tennant, K6PZW, in Los Angeles.

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Superior Court Judge Frank F. Fasel scheduled Kennedy's official sentencing for March 27th. No Orange County judge has ever reversed a jury's death verdict at sentencing. (Published news reports)

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ENFORCEMENT: MURDERER OF TWO NEBRASKA HAMS SENTENCED TO LIFE IN PRISON

The man who murdered two Nebraska hams last summer will never again see freedom. This, as Brandon Crago is sentenced to two terms of life in prison without the possibility of parole for the killings of Steve Baily, N0US and his wife Carolyn, N0LAL, in their rural Lincoln home on August 10th 2008.

The crime was discovered when a neighbor dropped by to let the Baily's know that their dogs were loose. When he reached the Baily's house he found Steve Baily's body outside beneath a blanket. Carolyn Baily was on the floor inside a broken front storm door. Each had been shot twice and their home ransacked.

Investigators found a spent shotgun shell at the crime scene. Crago's shotgun was found later in a Lincoln trash bin. Lab tests showed that the gun had Crago's and Carolyn Baily's DNA on it. Tests also showed that Crago's shoes had Steve Baily's blood on them.

Last month Crago pleaded no contest to all charges against him. District Judge Jodi Nelson has now sentenced him to the two life terms which, under Nebraska state law, was the only sentence possible in this case.

Chief Deputy Lancaster County Attorney Joe Kelly said that his office didn't seek the death penalty because of the uncertainty surrounding executions in the state.

One of the victims' daughters, Jennifer Baily, was in the courtroom to hear
Judge Nelson hand down the sentence. (Lincoln Journal Star, K0NEB)

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RADIO MISTAKE: THAT'S NOT A BOMB IT'S AN ANTENNA

Still in Nebraska, a sad yet funny story out of Omaha. That's where Police and a Bomb Squad have blown up a trap from a ham radio antenna because nobody could figure out what it was.

It all happened on Thursday, February 26th. That's when both agencies were
called out following the discovery by a cleaning crew of a device that they thought looked like a PVC pipe bomb.

The house in question belonged to Bob Rennolet, W0AEX. There had been an electrical fire in the house 2 weeks ago and he had hired the clean-up crew but it had no idea as to what it had found. So, rather than take chances, the Bomb Squad decided to blow it up. That's when they realized it was not
a bomb but a piece of W0AEX's ham radio gear.

Ironically, W0AEX lives next door to a fire station, so they didn't have far to go to put out the fire or blow up the trap. (K0NEB, W0HXL)

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ENFORCEMENT: FCC REVOKES LICENSE OF CONVICTED CHILD MOLESTER

The FCC has revoked the amateur radio license of an Indiana ham who was convicted several years ago of molesting a child. Amateur Radio Newsline's Mark Abramovich, NT3V, has the details:

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Lonnie Keeney, KB9RFO, will have to surrender his ham license after the FCC ruled "he lacks the requisite character and qualifications to be and remain a commission licensee."

Kris Anne Monteith, the FCC's chief of the Enforcement Bureau, issued the ruling after a more than two-year process that started with a compaint filed in 2006.

The FCC investigated and found Kenney pleaded guilty in December 2002 to inappropriate contact with a 5-year-old.

He was sentenced to six years in prison. Because of his conviction, Kenney is required to register as a sex offender and must register his address with law enforcement.

He was also barred from any contact with youth during a period of probation which ended last May.

In her order filed with the commission, Monteith said the character of a licensee is one of the factors the commission considers in determining whether a person should be granted an operating license.

She noted the commission has applied such character standards developed for broadcasters to applicants and licensees of the Amateur Radio Service.

Monteith said since Keeney acknowledged his conviction and continues to be supervised by law enforcement as a sex offender, his license should be revoked.

The revocation order was adopted Feb. 25.

For the Amateur Radio Newsline, I'm Mark Abramowicz, NT3V, in Philadelphia.

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Keeney's license revocation is effective on the 40th day after release of the revocation order, unless he files a Petition for Reconsideration. He also has the option of filing an Application for Review within thirty 30 days. If he does either, the effective date of the revocation order will be suspended pending further order of the Commission. (FCC)

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BREAK 1

 From the United States of America, We are the Amateur Radio Newsline, heard on bulletin stations around the world including the WA4TEN repeater serving Knoxville, Tennessee.

(5 sec pause here)

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WORLDBEAT: RNW ESTABLISHES RESCUE RADIO INFO SERVICE

In case of an international disaster, a shortwave broadcaster in Holland will be there to bring you the latest news and information. Randy Ross, KI4ZJI, has the rest of the story:

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Radio Netherlands Worldwide has a new international disaster information system set to launch this spring. Using a combination of special broadcasts, a separate Web site and mobile phone alerts, the international service will report on events and provide complete information for any Dutch victims and their relatives.

A specially trained Radio Netherlands team will answer questions via phone, radio, the Internet and the Dutch BVN television network. It will cover incidents such as natural disasters, social conflicts or any terrorist attacks that may occur. The news and information stream will be kept up to date from minute to minute.

Editor-in-Chief Rik Rensen is in charge of the project. He says that the disaster team is Radio Netherland's response to the urgent requests for help and information we received during recent violence in Mumbai and the lengthy airport strike in Bangkok.

For the Amateur Radio Newsline, I'm, Randy Ross, KI4ZJI, in Shelby, North Carolina.

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This new service from Radio Netherlands will be in addition to their many other international broadcasts. (Media Network)

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BREAKING DX NEWS: THE K5D TEAM SAYS THANK YOU

The recent Desecheo Island K5D DXpedition netted a grand total of 115,783 QSO's. According to co-leaders Bob Alperin, K4UEE, and Glenn Johnson, W0GJ, it means that the DXpedition ranks seventh for all-time for the total number of QSO's, and first for the most 30 Meter contacts.

In recent times, Desecheo Island was the number two most-wanted contact in Asia, and number three most-wanted in Europe. Alperin and Johnson say that 40% of the K5D contacts were with those two continents, making it an important goal that was achieved.

The team leaders say that a special K5D QSL card is in the final stages of design and will be available in the next few weeks. In the meantime, QSLs go directly to N2OO and are also being accepted on-line.

Alberin and Johnson add that the Desecheo 2009 team wants to thank everyone for working them and helping to make this DXpedition such a success. The K5D operation ran from February 12th to the 26th. (K5D release)

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HAM RADIO IN SPACE: CHARLES SIMONYI, KE7KDP HEADS BACK TO THE ISS

Software pioneer Charles Simonyi, KE7KDP, is to make a return trip to the International Space Station. If all goes as planned, Simonyi is expected to blast off for the ISS later this month on board the Soyuz TMA-14 crew change and re-supply flight.

In early 2006, Simonyi expressed interest in becoming a space tourist and signed agreements with the space tourism company, Space Adventures, Ltd., for a ten-day mission to the International Space Station. He launched on April 7, 2007on board Soyuz TMA-10, sharing a ride with two Russian cosmonauts to the International Space Station.

During his last stay on the ISS, Simonyi made numerous ham radio contacts with kids in schools world wide. Most were made using his United States KE7KDP callsign but Simonyi used his Hungarian call of HA5SIK when he contacted 25 radio amateurs in that nation on April 12th.

He returned aboard the Soyuz TMA-9 in April 21st. In October 2008, he booked a second trip to the ISS through Space Adventures that's about to take him back to the ISS, with liftoff slated for March 26th at 11:48 Moscow time. (ARNewsline(tm) from published reports)

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HAM RADIO ON THE NET: RADIO ARCALA CONTEST

A ham radio station that exists primarily on the Internet has launched a story writing contest to get more kids interested in the hobby. Jeramy Boot, G4NJH, is in Nottingham, UK, with more:

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The Arcala radio station, OH8X, is believed to be the first-ever amateur radio station to be active in a Virtual World on the Internet in the hope of attracting more young people to the hobby.

Millions of computer-minded youngsters gather there daily. They have launched a competition asking amateurs to imagine themselves as an 18 year old enthusiastic radio amateur. Then, in 250 words or less, describe the excitement of being an amateur to other young people and say why they should join amateur radio. The writing should be either in English or Spanish.

Please submit your paper by e-mail no later than 15 March to oh8x<at>sral<dot>fi for English papers or yv5amh<at>iaru-r2<dot>org for Spanish ones.

The papers will be reviewed by a panel of well known international radio

amateurs. The three best papers will receive plaques and the winning text will be made available to amateur radio publications and in the Virtual Reality world.

For the Amateur Radio Newsline, I'm Jeramy Boot, G4NJG

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Full details are on line at www.radioarcala.com. (RSGB, Radio Arcala)

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RADIO ACCIDENTS: SOUTH CAROLINA TOWER FELLED

High winds from the winter storm may have toppled a broadcast tower in Spartanburg, South Carolina. According to news reports, the felled tower belonged to CBS affiliate WSPA and was located atop Hogback Mountain near Spartanburg. It collapsed on Sunday afternoon, March 1st as a major winter storm was passing through the area. Nobody was injured in the mishap and WSPA remained in operation by streaming its programming on-line. It's not known if any local ham radio repeaters were located on the WSPA tower. (WCSC On-Line)

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ON THE NET: A COMPUTER WORM CALLED DOWNADUP

A computer worm called Downadup, continues to spread after infecting millions of corporate computers and servers. Don Carlson, KQ6FM, is here with the details on this one:

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Considered to be the most severe outbreak in years, about 1.2 million networks were contaminated as of January 23rd. This, according to the Helsinki- based Internet security software maker F-Secure.

That's up from less than a million on January 20th. According to F-Secure the worm, also know as Conficker, infects computers and servers running the Microsoft Windows operating system. It can then block users from accessing their accounts, also spreads through portable storage devices.

F-Secure posted a warning about the virus on its Web site on January 7th. The strain is different from other outbreaks because it mainly affects corporate networks rather than consumer's home systems.

I'm Don Carlson, KQ6FM, in Reno.

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More on the Downadup worm can be found on the websites of most security software companies such as F-Secure, McAfee, E-Trust and numerous others. (Published reports)

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ON THE AIR: PRACTICE MORSE ON 2 METER FM

If you live in the Kansas City area and want to practice CW, take your radio to 2 meter FM. Specifically to the Kansas City 145.37 repeater for the Independence CW over FM Net. The net meets at 1900 Central Standard Time every Monday night. Anyone with an interest in Morse and who owns a CW practice oscillator is more than welcome to participate. (KC0WTS)

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NAMES IN THE NEW: GENACHOWSKI NOMINATED TO HEAD FCC

Some names in the news. President Barack Obama has nominated Julius Genachowski as Chairman of the FCC. A lawyer by training, the 46 year old Genachowski was the architect of the new President's hugely successful drive to use the Internet to raise funds for the primary and general election campaigns. Genachowski also pushed the idea of using wireless as a way to connect with supporters

Julius Genachowski, who attended Harvard with President Obama is also a venture capitalist with long ties to Silicon Valley. He spent eight years at IAC InterActive and was a law clerk for two Supreme Court justices. He later served as chief counsel to former FCC chairman Reed Hundt. His appointment has to be approved by the Senate. (FCC)

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NAMES IN THE NEWS: NEW APPOINTMENTS AT RAC

The Radio Amateurs of Canada Board of Directors has appointed Sue Cooke, VE3SUH, as Vice President for Field Services. Cook will hold this position for the remainder of a two-year term which ends December 31st or until a permanent replacement is appointed, whichever comes first.

Former Vice President for Field Services Bob Cooke, VE3BDB, resigned from that post to accept appointment as the Radio Amateurs of Canada President. Both appointments were made at a Board meeting on February 24th. (RAC)

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THE SOCIAL SCENE: INTERNATIONAL DX CONVENTION IN CALIFORNIA IN APRIL

Turning to the social calendar, the annual International DX Convention in Visalia, California, will be held April 17th to the 19th. 2009 marks the 60th anniversary of this event with some added attractions this year include a Contest Academy sponsored by the Northern California Contest Club and a report on the Radio Arcala Project by OH2BH and OH8NC. This years special guest and banquet speaker is retired Navy Vice Admiral J. Scott Redd K0DQ. For complete program information, take your web browser to www.dxconvention.org (Via e-mail)

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THE SOCIAL SCENE: RADIOFEST MONTEREY MARCH 7 AND 8

Radiofest Monterey Bay 2009 runs March 7th to the 8th at Moose Lodge in Del Rey Oaks, California. Look for displays by Elecraft, Ham Radio Outlet and several other top names. Talk-in is on the K6LY 146.97 repeater using a 94.8 tone plus machines on 220 and 440. More information is on line at www.radiofest.org. (Via e-mail)

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THE SOCIAL SCENE: CHARLOTTE NC HAMFEST MARCH 14 - 15

The 2008 Charlotte North Carolina Hamfest is slated for March 14th and 15th at the Cabarrus Arena & Events Center in Concord. Talk-in will be provided on 146.655MHz repeater with backup on 146.94 machine. More information is www.w4bfb.org/hamfest2009/hamfest.html (Via e-mail)

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BREAK 2

This is ham radio news for today's radio amateur. From the United States of America, We are the Amateur Radio Newsline with links to the world from our only official website at www.arnewsline.org and being relayed by the volunteer services of the following radio amateur:

(5 sec pause here)

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CHANGING OF THE GUARD: DON ELLIOT HEALD - THE VOICE OF WWV - SK

The recorded voice of Time and Frequency Station WWV has fallen silent. This with word that announcer Don Elliot Heald, of Atlanta, Georgia, who gave WWV its human touch passed away on Thursday, February 19th.

Known in the broadcast world as Don Elliot, Heald had distinguished career that ranged from work at Atlanta Georgia's WSB to his automated and internationally heard WWV broadcasts on shortwave. He was also the voice of the Audichron telephone dial-in Time-Weather-Temperature service and of the Protestant Hour radio show for over 40 years. For nearly five decades Heald narrated the televised Christmas Eve service from Atlanta's Episcopal Cathedral of St. Philip, where he served as a vestryman, junior warden and senior warden.

Heald was originally from Massachusetts, but came to Atlanta via Lakeland, Florida. He was a graduate of the University of Florida at Gainesville and began his broadcast career after graduation when he accepted a position at WRUF where remained for three years. In Atlanta he spent much of his spare time devoted to public service work with charities and civic clubs.

A Service of Celebration of Don Elliot Heald's life took place on Tuesday February 24th at the Cathedral of St. Philip. He is survived by his wife Sara Farmer Heald of Atlanta, GA; sons and daughters-in- law David and Deborah of Ponte Vedra Beach, Florida, Tom and Evelyn Heald and Frank and Mary Heald of Atlanta. Don Elliot Heald was 86. (Various sources via AE6DW)

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EMERGING TECHNOLOGY: MELT ICE WITH VARIABLE RESISTANCE WIRE

A new way to keep ice off your antenna and transmission lines is on the horizon. This thanks to a group of New England researchers and a businessman with a vision. Newsline's Jeff Clark, K8JAC, tells us about this new technology that might some day keep your antenna from falling down in an ice storm:

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Dartmouth engineering professor and entrepreneur Victor Petrenko and his colleagues at Ice Engineering in Lebanon, New Hampshire, have invented a way to cheaply and effectively keep ice off power lines.

The new proprietary technology is called a variable resistance cable de-icing system. With only minor cable modifications plus some off-the-shelf electronics, the system switches the electrical resistance of a standard power line from low to high. The high resistance automatically creates heat to melt ice build-up or keep it from forming in the first place.

Ice Engineering plans to install and test a full-scale system prototype on a section of power line in Russia, in late January. The company is also currently negotiating full-scale installations of in other regions of Russia and in China.

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No word yet as to if and when a personal version of this new technology will be available to the ham in the ice cold street. (Science OnLine)

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HAM RADIO IN SPACE: NEW CERTIFICATE FOR OPERATING VO-52

Still with ham radio space related news, VU3TYG has announced that AMSAT India will issue a certificate to radio amateurs who establish two-way contact through the VO-52 ham radio satellite between now and May 5th. The first fifty certificates will be sponsored and includes postage. After the 50 certificates have been issued a fee will apply. Please send your QSL card containing the details of your QSO on VO-52 to AMSAT India (Regd.), No. 201, 2nd Main Road, Mahalakshmi Layout, Bangalore 560086 India. Make sure to include the mailing address where you would like to have the certificate sent to VU3TYG)

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WORLDBEAT: GERMAN AMTOR MAILBOX TO MOVE FREQUENCIES

Turning to news from around the world word that the Germany-based DA5TOR AMTOR mailbox will move its 40 meter access frequencies on March 29th. This, in order to comply with the new worldwide 40 Meter bandplan. The new frequencies are 7.047, 7.049 and 7.051 MHz with the new

activity center for AMTOR in Europe will be 7.042 MHz for direct connections. All frequencies and technical details of the mailbox can be found on line art www.amtor.de. (RSGB)

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WORLDBEAT: RSGB NEGOCIATES 500 kHz NOV EXTENSION

The Radio Society of Great Britain has negotiated extensions to 500 kHz Notices of Variation that permit UK amateurs to utilize that spectrum. Following proposals from the RSGB, Ofcom has extended existing permits for 501 to 504 kHz until February 28th 2010. The RSGB says that letters are being set to all Notices of Variation holders. The extension of the Notices of Variation also authorizes an Effective Radiated Power of up to 10 Watts. (GB2RS)

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DX

In DX, word that AA7JV and HA7RY will be active from Mellish Reef as VK9GMW in what they call another low-key DXpedition between March 22nd and April 6th. The operation will have a strong low-band focus. QSL via HA7RY direct, by the Bureau or using Logbook to the World. And please note that the dates of this operation are approximate and subject to change with little notice.

A group of 10 operators will be on the air April 12th to April 17th from the Western Sahara using S04R callsign. Operation will take place on 10 to 160 Meters using SSB, CW and some digital modes. The QSL manager will be EA5RM. EA5BZ will be the pilot station and additional info is already available at www.dxfriends.com.

F5TGR will be active as stroke FG from Guadeloupe March 14th to the 28th. Look for him on 40 through 10 Meters using CW and SSB. QSL via F5TGR.

F5UOW, will be active from Boucan Canot near St. Gilles les Bains between March 8th to the 22nd operating holiday style mostly CW on 20 Meters. QSL via his home callsign.

Look for W5JON portable J 6 from Saint Lucia from March 1st through 11th. He will be on 160 through 6 Meters using SSB from Marigot Bay. Antennas are dipoles on the HF bands and a Yagi for 50 Mhz. QSL via W5JON.

PF4T will be active from the Maldives as 8Q7TB from between June 8th to the 25th. Listen for him on 40 and 20 meters using SSB. QSL via PF4T.

(Above from various DX news sources)

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THE CHANGING OF THE GUARD: KATY WILLIAMS, KI6FJQ, AGE 19 - S.K.

With this weeks final words, here's our producer Bill Pasternak, WA6ITF:

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Every now and then a story truly touches a reporter's soul and so it is with this one. We are sad to report the passing of Katherine E. Williams, KI6FJQ, of Salinas, California. What separates the death of this ham operator from others that we have reported over the years is that Katy -- as she was known by her friends -- was only age 19. She was also the daughter of one of the unofficial members of our Amateur Radio Newsline family, Scott Avery, WA6LIE.

In a note from Scott we learned that Katy died at about 4 p.m. Pacific time on Tuesday, February 24th from complications with pneumonia. Scott tells us that this might have been the result of staph infection contracted from a visit to a dentist.

Scott tells us that Katy got interested in becoming a ham after he let her say hello to an astronaut on-orbit during a space to ground contact. Scott says that Katy thought it was neat to talk to astronauts and cosmonauts. He told her that she could do it on her own by getting her ham ticket.

So Katy studied hard and finally got her license and the call KI6FJQ. And eventually she did get to talk to someone in space when she hooked up with Charles Simonyi, KE7KDP. That's when Simonyi was a space tourist visiting the ISS. She also attended many radio events with Scott and thought it was all "kinda cool."

Scott tells us that Katy had plans to major in medicine as a career. She had a boy friend and truly enjoyed life. Scott describes Katy as a vibrant young teen with her life ahead of her.

Katy Williams is survived by her dad, her mother Mary, KG6LGS, and three brothers and sisters. And no matter how old the rest of us get, Katy Williams, KI6FJQ, will always be age 19. It is to her memory and her young spirit of amateur radio that we dedicate this week's newscast.

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Our condolences go out to Scott Avery, WA6LIE, and his family on their loss. (ARNewsline(tm) from information supplied by WA6LIE)

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NEWSCAST CLOSE

With thanks to Alan Labs, AMSAT, the ARRL, the CGC Communicator, CQ Magazine, the FCC, the Ohio Penn DX Bulletin, Radio Netherlands, Rain, the RSGB, the Southgate News and Australia's WIA News, that's all from the Amateur Radio Newsline(tm). Our e-mail address is newsline<at>arnewsline<dot>org. More information is available at Amateur Radio Newsline's(tm) only official website located at www.arnewsline.org. You
can also write to us or support us at Amateur Radio Newsline(tm), P.O. Box 660937, Arcadia, California 91066.

A reminder that the nominating period for the 2009 Amateur Radio Newsline Young Ham of the Year Award is now open. Complete details are on our

website at www.arnewsline.org Just scroll down to the words "2009 YHOTY Nominations Now Open" and click for more information and an official nominating form.

For now, with Bill Pasternak, WA6ITF, at the editor's desk, I'm Jim Davis,
W2JKD, saying 73 and we thank you for listening.

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